

# Claes Oldenburg

## Everyday Objects



- **Claes Oldenburg** (born January 28, 1929) is a Swedish born American Pop sculptor.
  - Pop artists - explores the everyday imagery that is so much a part of contemporary consumer culture. Common sources of imagery include advertisements, consumer product packaging, celebrity photographs, and comic strips.
- Best known for his public art installations typically featuring very large replicas of everyday objects.
- Some sculptures are made from materials that could resist weathering conditions outside such as, metal, fiberglass, and plastic.
- Other sculptures called “soft sculptures” are more for indoor installations as they are made leather, vinyl, etc.



**Clothespin, 1976**  
Cor-Ten and stainless steels  
Centre Square Plaza, Fifteenth and Market streets, Philadelphia



*Crusoe Umbrella* by Claes Oldenburg, 1979,  
Cor-Ten steel painted with polyurethane enamel.  
Public art located in Nollen Plaza,  
[Des Moines, Iowa](#)





**Balancing Tools, 1984**  
Steel painted with polyurethane enamel  
Vitra International AG, Weil am Rhein,  
Germany

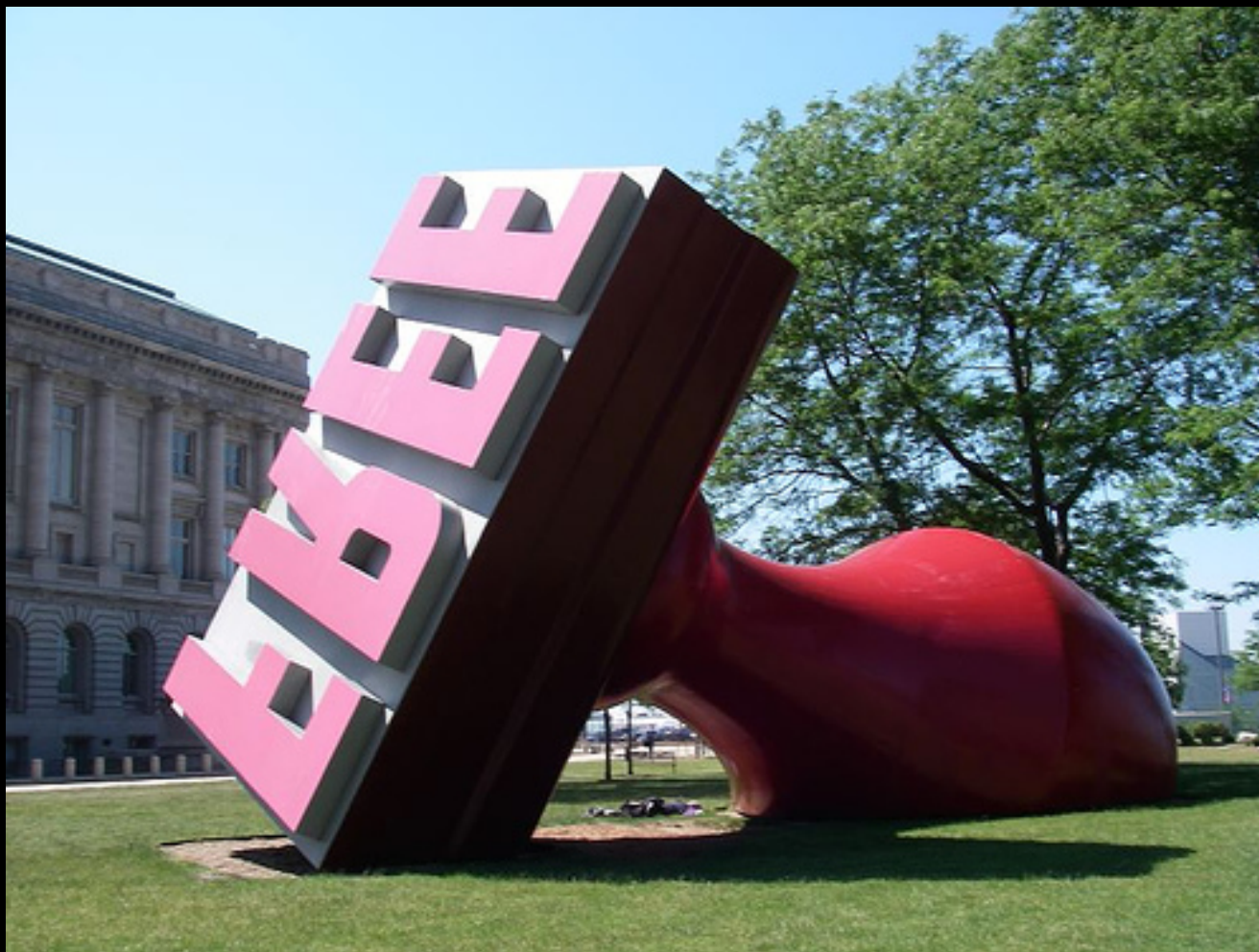


**Spoonbridge and Cherry, 1988**

Stainless steel and aluminum painted with polyurethane enamel

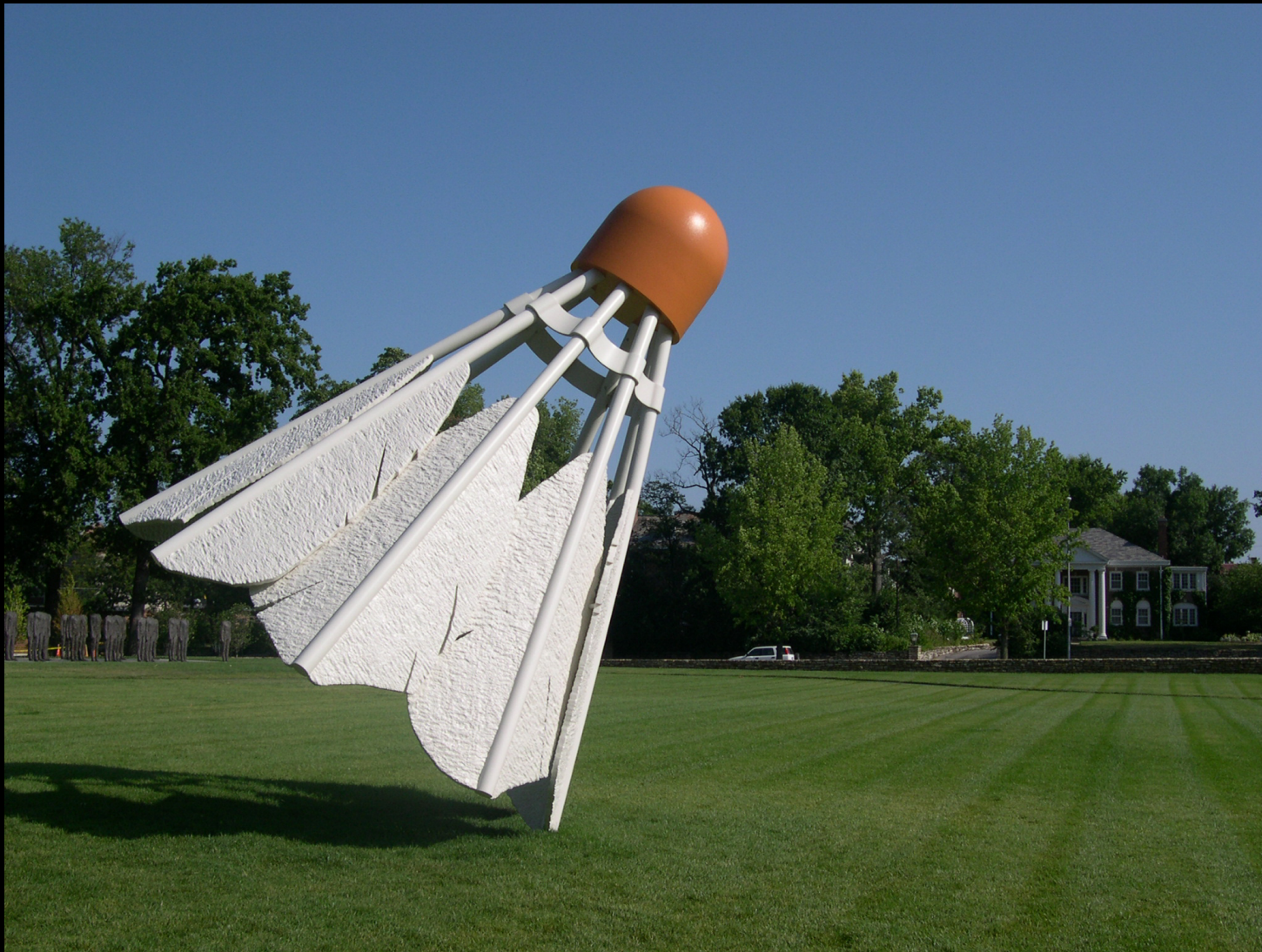
Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota





Free Stamp, 1991, East of City Hall, Cleveland, Ohio





**Shuttlecocks, 1994**

Aluminum and fiber-reinforced plastic painted with polyurethane enamel  
Four shuttlecocks, sited in different positions on the grounds of the museum  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri



*Typewriter Eraser, Scale X*, by Claes Oldenburg  
and Coosje van Bruggen  
1999, painted stainless steel and Fiberglas  
[National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC](#)





Corridor Pin, Blue, 1999, San Francisco,  
CA



**Cupid's Span, 2002**

Stainless steel, structural carbon steel, fiber-reinforced plastic, cast epoxy, Rincon Park, San Francisco, California





**Big Sweep, 2006**  
Stainless steel, aluminum, fiber-reinforced plastic;  
painted with polyurethane enamel  
Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado



Plantior, 1716 Locust St, Des Moines, IA



"Switches", soft sculpture





Baseball Glove, soft sculpture



# Oldenburg Papier-mâché Object Assignment

- Choose an object that is smaller than your hand, like a pencil, piece of candy, or a marker. No simple forms like a ball.
- Use recycled materials such as newspaper, cardboard, and milk jugs to create a structure to cover with papier-mâché.
- Papier-mâché your structure with a couple of layers of newspaper and one layer of paper towel. Make sure to smooth all the paper down so it will be easier to paint later.
- The final size should be at least 12".
- Paint your project in either the realistic colors of the object or colors that aren't normally seen on that object.